

Appl. No. : 09/312,028
Filed : May 14, 1999

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on April 20, 2006. In that Notice, Examiner Felten asserts that the Amendment filed on March 21, 2002 (the "Amendment") fails to comply with Rule 111 because it fails to explain how each newly added dependent claim is distinct from the cited art. Applicants respectfully disagree. As discussed during the telephone interview on May 18, 2006, the Amendment points out how each independent claim—and thus each dependent claim—is distinct from the cited art. In addition, nothing in Rule 111 indicates that Applicants must present separate arguments with respect to each of the dependent claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment fully complies with Rule 111.

Given the Office's unusually long delay in considering the Amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the Amendment on an expedited basis.

No fees are believed to be due. If, however, any fees are required now or in the future, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Account No. 11-1410.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative at 949-721-2950.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: May 19, 2006

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